



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/782,767 | 02/23/2004 | Yasuhiro Esaki | 26001 | 7653 |
| 20529 | 7590 | 09/09/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| NATH & ASSOCIATES 1030 15th STREET, NW 6TH FLOOR WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | WILLIAMS, KEVIN D | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2854 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/782,767

Applicant(s)

ESAKI ET AL.

Examiner

Kevin D. Williams

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 3, 9, 10 and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 3, line 4, "the lighting start key" lacks proper antecedent basis in the claim.

In claim 3, line 7, "the blinking start key" lacks proper antecedent basis in the claim.

In claim 3, line 9, "the un-lighting start key" lacks proper antecedent basis in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kubota (US 2002/0029703).

Kubota teaches a process progress display device displaying progress status of a plurality of work processes which are performed in a processing apparatus individually

Art Unit: 2854

or continuously, the process progress display device comprising: a work process progress display unit (52;[0085]) configured to display a progress status of each work process ([0061] – [0071]); a work process stop display unit 83 corresponding to each work process, making a display 83 as to whether the processing apparatus is to be stopped or a work process scheduled to be subsequently performed is to be continuously executed in accordance with a work process to be executed at an end of the work process; and a control unit (CPU 53) configured to control contents of the display of the work process progress display unit in accordance with the progress status of each work process and sequentially updates the contents of the display on the work process progress display unit, the work process progress display unit and the work process stop display unit make a display in association with another display unit 51, the another display unit 51 comprises a start key to start processing upon being pressed ([0051]), the process progress display device 52 is included in a stencil printing machine ([0085]) including a stencil making process of perforating a stencil sheet based on image information and a printing process of performing stencil printing on a printing medium by use of the stencil sheet for which the stencil making has already been performed, and displays the progress statuses of the stencil making process and the printing process, the stencil printing machine includes a plurality of printing drums (Fig. 1), and performs the stencil printing independently for each of the printing drums, and the process progress display device displays the progress statuses of the stencil making process and the printing process for each of the printing drums, and the process progress display device is included in an image forming apparatus including a

Art Unit: 2854

developing process of developing and storing data received from outside and a printing process of printing the data developed and stored in the developing process, and displays progress statuses of the developing process and the printing process.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 3, 9, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota in view of Sato (US 6,401,606).

Kubota teaches the claimed invention except for the lighting start key indicates that it is possible to start the processing displayed on the work process progress display unit and the work process stop display unit, the blinking start key indicates that a start command for the processing is required, and the un-lighting start key indicates that it is impossible to start the processing.

Kubota indicates the above conditions through text and other symbols on the screen 65.

Sato teaches the use of lighting and blinking to indicate various conditions to a user (col. 11, lines 58-61).

Art Unit: 2854

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Kubota to have the lighting and blinking as taught by Sato, in order to reduce the amount of text and the number of symbols used to signal an operator.

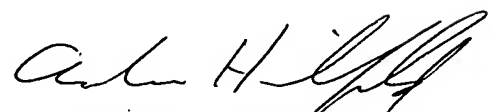
Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin D. Williams whose telephone number is (571) 272-2172. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KDW
September 6, 2005


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800